

# INHABITANTS OF MOVING PICTURE CITY, PLANNING TO INCORPORATE AND ELECT MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN, THWARTED WHEN ACTRESSES START SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

Universal City, California, Only Municipality In World In Which Entire Population Consists of "Movie" Stars Swept by a "Votes For Women" Crusade—Indian Squaws Join Uprising and Compel Braves to Desert Party.

Women Candidates For Office Cable to Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont For Advice on Suffrage Crusade—Issuing of Franchise to Street Railway Company, Building of Artesian Wells, City Hall, and Appointment of Police and Fire Departments Checked by Suffragist Sympathizers—Picture Work Neglected.

SUFFRAGE CANDIDATES.	DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES.	PROGRESSIVE CANDIDATES.
Mayor—Lois Weber. Corporation Counsel—Ethel Grandon. Aldermen—Edna Maisson, Natalie Delantan. Chief of Police—Laura Oakley.	Mayor—Aubrey M. Kennedy. Corporation Counsel—James Dayton. Aldermen—A. R. Whitcomb, D. C. Hoadley. Chief of Police—L. M. Levey.	Mayor—W. L. Foster. Corporation Counsel—Arthur A. Alder. Aldermen—P. E. McGuire, F. G. Norton. Chief of Police—Daniel Horn.



UNIVERSAL CITY, Cal., the only municipality in the world inhabited exclusively by moving picture actors and actresses, soon to be incorporated with a mayor, board of aldermen and a police and fire department, is ravaged by a suffrage movement which has sprung up almost overnight.

Christened a little more than three months ago, Universal City is now permanently established on the map of southern California with a total population of 1,345. Every one of the thousand and more residents is actively identified with the making of moving pictures.

Announcement recently that an election will be held on May 20 precipitated the suffrage flurry which has assumed

"There will be a meeting in studio No. 1 at once," said Leonard after Director Otis Turner had dismissed the performers. "We want as many men as possible to be there."

Margarita Fischer, who plays leading roles in the 101 Bison company, overheard the announcement of the meeting. Feminine curiosity prompted an investigation, even at the risk of losing their positions at supper, so Miss Fischer and Miss Grandon remained at a discreet distance while the men fled away, in groups of two or three, to studio No. 1.

Choosing an opportune moment, the two girls quietly secreted themselves behind a mass of "props" and listened. "Let these men run us and Universal City too? Never!" sputtered the now angered Miss Fischer as she hurried Miss Grandon away from the studio at the conclusion of the men's meeting. "Women can vote up in Los Angeles,

to be on hand at the mass meeting that night.

The meeting was held at studio No. 7, and an overwhelming majority of the four hundred and seventy-one women voters were present. It was a sort of indignation meeting. At least every woman present was indignant at the thought that she was to be left out of city politics.

Lois Weber, the leading woman of the Rex company, voiced the sentiment of the meeting in her maiden suffrage speech:

"We have been patient long enough. We live in California and have the right to vote, and we're going to exercise it. We are four hundred and seventy-one strong, against one hundred and fifty Indians, seventy-five cowboys, three hundred cavalry and infantry soldiers, twenty-two carpenters, fifteen scene painters, two hundred actors, one hundred laborers and twelve men cooks. That's eight hun-

anarchists and an anti-suffragist, tried to organize a party following, but the resourceful suffragists broke up their meeting with a few cat calls and threats to spoil any films in which the Socialist members worked unless they fell in line and listened to reason.

Solicitor Advice From Mrs. Belmont. One of the first steps the suffragettes of Universal City took was to cable to Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont at the Strand, in



London, asking her for advice on how to get the suffrage vote. They wired Miss Ingham at the Vanderbilt hotel in New York for helpful suggestions.

Pending replies to these messages, the Universal City suffragettes have taken things into their own hands and acted where action was necessary.

Lois Weber, suffrage candidate for mayor, has threatened to give Phillips Smalley, her husband and leading man in Rex company No. 1, weak support in an important picture in which they are playing unless he will agree to vote the women's ticket.

All of the residents of this suffrage town municipality, including the tribe of Indians, the regiment of soldiers and the cowboys, are in the employ of the Universal Film Manufacturing company of New York. Officials of the company have determined to let the actors and actresses fight their own battles and settle their various political differences without any interference.

"We don't even dare betray our party inclinations," declared Mr. Carl Lamme, president of the Universal Film Manufacturing company. "If we did there would be an awful cry of 'partiality' from our west coast organization. Actors and actresses are temperamental, even under ordinary circumstances, and difficult to manage. But

the two parties. They are debating whether to throw up their hands right now, in the fear that there is going to be trouble if the women don't have their way.

Director Breaks Up Democratic Gathering.

The suffragettes are still laughing over the failure of a recent Democratic mass meeting. Phillips Smalley organized the meeting to "get back" at his leading lady, Lois Weber, who had made many political threats against him. Fight in the midst of an eloquent speech Smalley was pulled off the stump by the director of his company and taken in an auto six miles into the country to appear in a forest scene in an unfinished picture. His mouth was still open in a final denunciation of the women's candidate when he disappeared into the tonneau of the big auto, leaving his audience dumfounded.

Seizing the opportunity, Margarita Fischer mounted the vacated stump and made a rampant, red-hot suffrage speech until her shamefaced audience dwindled.

Women Score First Real Campaign Victory.

At night, when all the actors are free, they turn out into the streets and drift from corner to corner, listening to rival speakers. The embryo city is ablaze with torchlights, and free food and

free speech are to be had in the two public halls.

The women have already scored one victory by hiring the famous Universal Round-up Cowboy band to play at their meetings and drown out the voices of male political agitators in the streets.

Princess Mona Darkfeather, leading woman of 101 Bison company No. 8, has pledged herself to swing the Indian vote. She has conducted two successful powwows among her people, at which the peace pipe wasn't passed.

The forthcoming election is exceedingly important because a street railway company has been making overtures for a franchise to lay its tracks through the city, and artesian well

versal City. If it succeeds and the women really get into the coveted offices, then it will be just twice as interesting to see how they pan out. Anyway it's an unusual situation, and in this case if the best man wins it will probably be a woman.



WHAT MAY HAPPEN (Camera Man to Mayor and Councilmen)—"Come on, you fellows; forget the politics; we've got to have your city hall for a scene."

when they are boiling with political wrath and party alliances it is policy for us to sit back and let them fight their own battles."

At all of the eight studios there are daily arguments between the candidates of the three parties. One picture has been spoiled by the leading lady of the Nestor company, who forgot her business and launched forth into a heated suffrage argument with her leading man while the frantic director was trying to film a ball room scene.

Squaws Grow Militant—Threaten Braves.

The women are threatening to resort to methods of sabotage as practiced in London and Paris by militant politicals. They promise to spoil thousands of feet of film unless the men will treat their movement with more dignity and agree to give them their support.

One squaw with a particularly stubborn spouse who rides bucking bronchos in some of the best 101 Bison company pictures has sworn that she will put cockleburrs under her husband's horse blanket and make his calico pony buck in deadly earnest in the next picture if his chiefship doesn't agree to "vote right."

The directors of the various companies are all sitting on the fence, afraid to get down on either side for fear of stepping on the tender toes of their temperamental actors and actresses. They don't dare express an opinion or espouse any of the three causes for fear some earnest politician will spoil a picture.

The men, having visions of being haled to court by a lady police, examined before a lady judge, having their pay envelopes taxed by a lady assessor and tapped by a lady collector, are in open revolt. Their chief argument is that women graft enough privately from their husbands and that they shouldn't be allowed to get into the business of public graft.

The men's camp is divided between

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Margarita Fischer Making Her First Suffrage Speech.

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Black Pete to Indian Braves: "We'd better be goin' afore we lose our scalps. That fellow argued with her."

proportions so alarming that the voters are anxiously urging the appointment of a temporary police department before the official election is held.

Secret Meeting Reveals Political Plot.

The trouble started at the conclusion of a recent rehearsal for a big three reel feature film, in which every actress in Universal City was to appear. No previous announcement had been made by the men leaders in the movement to incorporate Universal City that the election of city officials was contemplated or even that a state charter would be sought. The effect of a little speech made by Robert Leonard of Rex company fame, therefore, had doubly surprising results.

and if there is any voting to be done at Universal City we are going to do as much of it as anybody. Maybe more!" And with this ultimatum the young ladies set out on visits to the various cottages. They talked propaganda and roused the women to action. Many suppers were served either cold or burned in Universal City that night. But the women were awakening.

Women Hold Indignation Meeting.

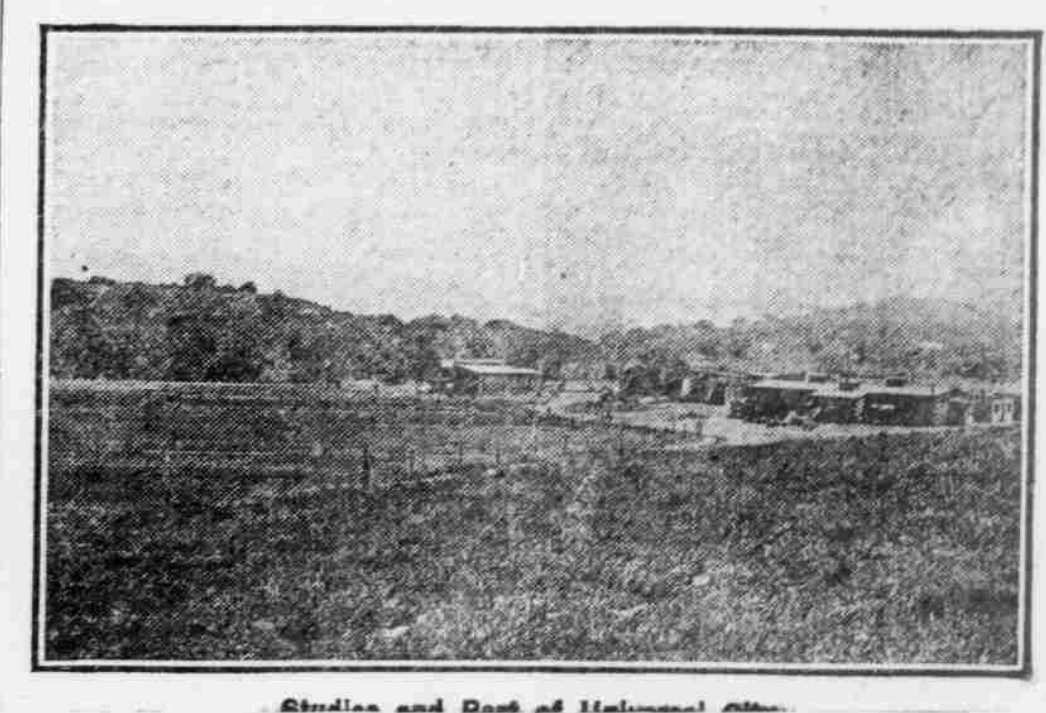
Miss Grandon even extended her visit to the wigwams of the ninety-one Indian squaws who cook hominy and Indian pudding for the 150 braves working with them in pictures at Universal City. The sister squaws were interested in the movement and agreed

dred and seventy-four in the enemy's camp—almost twice as many votes as we have.

"Now, the only way for us to win is for each woman to bring at least one vote besides her own. That will give us a big majority. Since most of us are married and can only properly bring in one extra vote, we will count on the old and young maids for three or four votes apiece."

"Heap good talk!" cried an old Indian squaw sitting well down front. "I bring um three."

Thereupon the meeting was adjourned and the audience, with a swish of skirts, began by nominating a slate of officers. It is the first municipal ticket



Studio and Part of Universal City.